

OCTOBER

1995

OPEN ARMS

VOL. 7 NUMBER 10

..... MICHIGAN'S LESBIAN NEWSLETTER

The first question was asked. "So. How long did it take you to get here?" Without pause, I answered, "Four hours and forty-four years."

YES, indeed, I did that....*that* is, the finest festival in this country for women of all kinds- The Women's Music Festival in Michigan.

This was my first journey. So with my explorer eyes in place, I absorbed as much as I possibly could in four days.

Following is a count down in order of my *delight in the experience*:

10. It is an experience every women in the world would find freedom to *BE*.
9. It is vast, beautiful, covered with protected natural woods and land. It felt safe, as well.
8. Camping was wonderful; and in an area that felt most comfortable for me. (e.g.: "Chem-free", "Wild", "Quiet" "Over fifties", "Handicapped", ect.).
7. Absolutely original and creative jewelry, pottery, artwork, clothing, ect. was created and sold by women.
6. Beautiful music of all kinds was being played and sung on three different stages at any hour of the day and evening..
5. There were on-going workshops and support groups.
4. I felt a universal respect among women for each other.
3. 8200 women...That's right.....EIGHT THOUSAND-TWO-HUNDRED WOMEN—from all over the country!!!
2. Drumming. African drums sounded out hypnotically the messages of women.
1. CLOTHING WAS OPTIONAL!!!! I felt quite at home with a pair of shorts and a necklace I had bought while shopping one day. What a freedom!!!

Oh my god..and what wonderful bodies we have as women!

Returning to the real world is somewhat difficult after experiencing the dream I'd been a part of. I'm reminded of how many of "us" are out there. I know that as long as women's festivals exist, there will continue to be confident, assertive, self-accepting women in the country to lead the "lost ones". And for me.....well, my bra has become way too tight—I've given myself permission to wear fewer clothes in my own home. It's a small freedom to some, I know. But for this tomboy who never wanted to wear a bra much less a shirt in the summer, this is FREEDOM!

Submitted by Sue

COMMUNITY EVENTS

VIDEO NIGHT

Oct. 13th. at 7:00 IN

How 'bout a Friday the 13th with Xena?
Sounds exciting to me! For those of you who
have not seen Xena, you are in for a real treat.
She is every Lesbian girls fantasy shero.
She's strong, in charge, beautiful, magical, and
good. A champion for justice.
New Zealand gives us this great gift or a great
woman...XENA, Princess Warrior!

Call for directions
616-695-7311

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Every Tuesday
7-9 p.m.

For info, write:
LSG

P.O. Box 1612
Mishawaka, IN 46544

EVENTS COORDINATORS

Third Friday Out: Jackie (219)-291-5837
Video Night: Gloria & Julie (616)-695-7311
Sunday Brunch: Kaye & Marcia (219)-271-0338

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Sheree (616)-684-6365
Kaye & Marcia (219)-271-0338
Advertising: Kaye & Marcia
Subscriptions: Kaye & Marcia

EDITORIAL POLICY

We may edit any article submitted for length or content.
We ask that all articles submitted be signed and typed,
but will respect the wishes of the author by not printing
her name if so requested.

PLEASE TYPE SUBMISSIONS IF POSSIBLE

If it is possible for you to type your submissions on a
letter quality typewriter or printer, please do so using a
55 space line. This will make layout much easier.

Thanks.

3RD FRIDAY OUT

Honker's

211 E. Day Rd.

Mishawaka

Friday, Oct. 20th, 7:00 p.m.

For reservations, call Jackie by Wednesday,
October 18, at (219)-291-5837

SWEETHEART DANCE

sponsored by

Lavender Rhythm Dance Committee

Pickwick Place

219 N. 4th St., Niles, MI

Oct 21, 1995

1:00 to 12:00 Midnight, IN

Music by DJ

\$5 at the Door Only

(For further directions and information,
see write up on a following page.)



UP AND COMING EVENTS

Nov. 3-12 The 15th Chicago Lesbian and Gay
International Film Festival, 312-334-5533
Nov. 3-5 The Experience Workshop, Cincinnati,
OH, 1-800-966-3896
OCT. 11 National Coming Out Day
Mountain Moving Coffee House
Oct. 14 Karen Williams
Oct. 21 Dyketime
Nov. 4 Mary Waitrovich
Nov. 18 Julia Penelope
call (312)-477-8362 for information
Concerts in Indianapolis
Nov. 4, 5 & 10 Suzanne Westenhofer
Dec. 9 Cris Williamson, Tret Fure
Feb. 1-4, 8-11, 1996 Judith Sloan's, "Denial of the
Fittest"

Call: 317-637-2906

Olivia Cruises

Oct. 5-12 Sonora Bay

Nov. 4-11 Ixtapa

Apr. 8-15, 1996 Grand Caribbean

Jun. 25-Jul. 3, 1996 Alaska

call 1-800-631-6277 for information

THE MAUTNER PROJECT

By Lee Lynch

At fifty, Gerry is a class A old gay good-looking smooth-talking butch living in North Dakota. She's been around the block a few times and has that twinkly lovingly bemused ultra-cool and quietly hot look in her eyes that takes decades to get down pat. You might say that I admire her. And she has breast cancer.

The news of her illness rocked me almost as if it were my own diagnosis. Who'll take care of her if she undergoes surgery? Who'll be there for her if she doesn't get better?

Another friend, Debbie Morris, happened to call and tell me about the Mautner Project. She's a board member of this volunteer organization dedicated to helping lesbians with cancer, their partners, and care givers. I wanted to bundle Gerry up and transport her to Washington d.c. where Susan Hestor and the Mautner volunteers turn their losses and pain into service.

Debbie, a pioneer in women's radio, has lost a lot of people to cancer. "The Washington Baltimore area has one of the highest cancer rates in the country. More African-American women die of cancer than do women in the larger population."

Each lesbian family that calls the Mautner Project gets a coordinator who organizes some of the nearly 200 volunteers to perform services. Women are referred to lesbian-sensitive physicians, support groups, therapists and to other lesbians with the same types of cancer.

Her late partner's nurse told Susan Hestor, "I've never known lesbians before and am just so moved by how you all create family." This kind of education is desperately needed - - surveys show Ob/Gyn doctors particularly, and other health providers, say they prefer not to treat lesbians.

Gerry's always worked at whatever job she could get, and she'd had health insurance once or twice, but couldn't afford to keep it on her own. She never even thought about her breasts, except for a secret smugness that she was almost as flat-chested as she had been when she first came out.

One of the Mautner Project's goals is targeted outreach, including advertising at lesbian community centers, bars, clubs and other places Gerry might go if she lived in D.C. She might have picked up a self-examination brochure. She might even have volunteered to drive someone to a doctor's appointment.

Susan Hestor: "It's remarkable that people give up the amount of time that they give up. Volunteers in direct service always say they get more than they give, see more strength and love than they've ever seen and end up with close friendships."

An attorney, Mary-Helen Mautner left a page of notes for her partner, Susan Hestor, outlining how this type of project could be structured. This year marks the sixth anniversary of Mautner's death from breast cancer, and the fifth anniversary of the Project.

Hestor's pride is plain when she announces, "We've just made available, for \$10, a great technical assistance manual that any small group of women can use to start a similar project."

As long as Gerry remains intimidated by the health care system, research monies focus on male health, and information and services are not readily accessible to lesbians in her shoes, her life depends on the proliferation of groups like the Mautner Project.

Help is coming, Gerry, hang on. You may not have to go through this alone.

The Mautner Project. 1707 L Street NW, Suite 1060,
Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 332-5536

KEEPING SECRETS

By Penny Mickelbury

If you are into mysteries, this is a good read. The first of a stunning, authentic new series set in our nation's capitol.

D.C. Police Lieutenant Gianna Maglione, head of the recently formed Hate Crimes Unit, finds herself commanding a task force with the most challenging assignment of all: to track down the ultimate perpetrator of hate, a serial killer.

Four rich, in-the-closet gay people dead, over a three months period; all the same M.O. and not a clue to the reason for the way they died.

Afro-American news reporter Mimi Patterson has a new assignment- -investigating the deaths-to confirm her suspicions that Gianna and her task force are keeping secret the two elements the crimes have in common: the method of death, and the sexual orientation of the victims.

Gianna pleads for secrecy to give her task force a chance to track down this most lethal of killers, who appears to have infiltrated the heart of the gay community. Mimi is torn by conflict, complicated by her attraction to Gianna. Mimi has her own professional integrity and standards to uphold: the public's right to know- -and the gay community's need to understand that a killer is stalking its most closeted and fearful members.

As Gianna and Mimi each pursue their parallel courses of investigation, they are drawn closer together-personally and professionally, and Gianna finds herself as the next possible victim, coming all too close to the killer.

You won't want to put this page turner down until the last page.

About The Author

Penny Mickelbury was a newspaper, radio and television reporter in Washington D.C. for more than a decade. She was also the assistant news director at a Washington television station. This book is available from The Naiad Press

Book Review by Jean

BESTSELLERS

Women's Paperbacks

1. GENDER OUTLAW, Kate Bornstein (Vintage)
2. BAD COMPANY, Sara Dreher (New Victoria)
3. SOMEONE TO WATCH, Jaye Maiman (Naiad)
4. STORM FRONT, Linda Kay Silva (Paradigm)
5. MY SWEET UNTRACEABLE YOU, Sandra Scoppettone (Ballentine)
6. S/HE, Minnie Bruce Pratt (Firebrand)
7. KILLING CURE, Ellen Hart (Ballentine)
8. GIVE MY SECRETS BACK, Kate Allen (New Victoria)
9. EIGHT BULLETS, Claudia Brenner (Firebrand)
10. OPEN HOUSE, Pat Welch (Naiad)

Women's Hardback

1. AND SAY HI TO JOYCE, Deb Price & Joyce Murdoch (Doubleday)
2. INTERSECTION OF LAW AND DESIRE, J.M. Redman (Norton)

COURT OF FRIENDS

SINGLES

O.K. all you singles! Here's your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you, what you are looking for in another (be brief), and send to:

The Court of Friends

P.O.Box 1281

Niles, MI 49120

(Be sure to include your address.)

Your identity will be assigned an ID number. Your info and ID number will be published in OPEN ARMS. (It would be helpful if you would send your info early in the month so that it can be published in the next month's issue.) Also, O.A. reserves the right to edit, if necessary, for publication.

Those wishing to respond to an ID Single may do so by writing whatever you wish, putting it in a stamped, sealed envelope with the intended ID number on the front (in pencil). Place your message in another stamped envelope and mail to the above P.O.Box.

Upon receiving your message, the ID number will be replaced with the corresponding name and address and mailed. Then you're on your own. **COME ON SINGLES!** *Someone special wants to know you're out there!*

37 Hi, My name is ———; I am a 44 year old country girl who likes the simpler things in life. By simpler I mean wearing blue jeans, tennis shoes and cowboy boots.

Some of my interests include fishing, hiking, nature photography and just relaxing. I love animals, sports cars and cool-looking trucks and music; most especially country western.

I am in search of someone with some of the same interests who would like to try to start a friendship first with the possibility of a long-term relationship down the road. I am not into one-nite stands and head-games.

I am a very open, honest person so if you can't handle those qualities I am not the one for you. I take friendship, love, commitment seriously and am very caring, giving and loving and am serious about finding someone to share my life with.

If what you read above sounds like something you would be interested in, I would love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

38 Hi, I am feminine, attractive, honest and discreet. I enjoy conversation, a variety of music, church, reading, and some sports. I have a sense of humor and enjoy the simple things in life. I'm in search of someone between ages 26-40 with similar characteristics and interests. I prefer non-smoker/non-drinker...possible relationship.

39 It has been said that "good things come to those who wait." I am tired of waiting! This 37 year old has a passion for life. My interests are varied and include music, movies and bowling. I am an open, honest, loving person. I believe in romance. I am secure with who and what I am. I am considered attractive but outer "beauty" is not important to me. I do not play head games or do one nighters.

I would like to meet someone who has a positive personality, likes to laugh, and is looking for a possible relationship. She must be secure enough with herself to be able to accept me as I am. You see, I am comfortable in jeans or dresses, denim or lace. I like giving roses as well as receiving them. I can be quite shy or very assertive.

Do I interest you? If so, I would love to hear from you.

40 Non-smoker, social drinker, 35 years, with 1 child seeks female friendship and possible relationship. If you're tired of being alone and not too afraid to start all over, let's get together and see what happens.

41 Attractive 55 year old lady is looking for a mature, honest relationship. I'm 5'3", ash blonde, blue eyes, freckles. My interests include anything outdoors, golf, music, sports, quiet dinners. Prefer non-drinker, no drugs. Would like to meet a lady 40's plus. No bi's or playgirls, please.

42 I am 30 yrs. old. I have been employed 8 1/2 yrs. with a millwork corp. I enjoy listening to and performing music. I like sports and am very mechanical.

I would like to meet someone sensitive, kind, and caring with a good personality. Someone sharp minded and easy going.

Consumer Information
from TLC (The Lesbian Committee of NOW)
August 1995

Each month The Lesbian Committee intends to survey 8-10 similar businesses or services in your area in order to identify those businesses that are lesbian/gay friendly. We will then make the list of businesses who responded within the deadline, and those who did not, available to the local lesbian/gay newsletters. In addition, TLC will compile an annual directory of lesbian/gay-friendly businesses and distribute it to local lesbian/gay organizations.

"Freedom is fragile and must be protected. To sacrifice it, even as a temporary measure, is to betray it."
Germaine Greer (*And then she said....*)

This month we polled attorneys regarding their views about lesbians and gay men as employees and clients. We asked the usual questions and sent a SASE for easy reply. .

1. Do you welcome lesbians and gays at your business?
 2. Would you hire a person who was qualified for an open position if you knew they were lesbian or gay?
 3. If it came to your attention that one of your clients was lesbian or gay, would you treat them the same?
- Yes to all three:

Lynn Chase, Bankruptcy Lawyer

No Reply:

Mary Ann Boulac, Kathleen Brickley, Janilyn Brouwer, Deborah Brown, Anne Bruneel, Kathleen Cekanski-Farrand, Karla Boresi, Kimberly Finlan, Jeanine Gozdecki

Lavender rhythm is having their next dance on Oct. 21, 1995. The new dance hall is PICKWICK PLACE in downtown Niles. Please make note of the new hall. The location is 219 North Fourth Street Niles, Mich. This hall is located upstairs over the Niles Daily Star Newspaper. It has an elevator for womyn who are in need of it. Directions to the hall : Travel into Niles (U.S. 12, Business 33) follow till it meets Main street. Turn west go pass 1st. light which will be 5th St. Turn north on to 4th St. (You will see The Daily Star Sign). The hall is in the 1st. block on the right hand side. Parking is allowed on the street or in the parking lot 1 block up on the left at the corner of 4th and Sycamore.

Lavender rhythm is havin a dance meeting for anyone who is intrested in helping at the dance, on Oct. 15 at 4:00 Indiana time. At Laura and Nancy's house, 1319 Maple Street, Niles, Mich. (616) 684-7362.



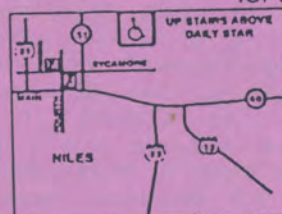
Place: Pickwick Place,
219 N. 4th St., Niles, MI
Date: October 21, 1995
Time: 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 Midnight Ind. Time
8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Mich. Time
Admission: \$5.00 at the Door ONLY
(no advance tickets)

A Wimmin's
Event

Music by
DJ

Refreshments
Door Prizes

Volunteers Needed
Call 616-684-7362, or
P.O. Box 1002, Niles, MI 49120
for Information.



BYOB



Sponsored by the "Lavender Rhythm"
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Disclaimer: Lavender Rhythm or Womyn's Community are not responsible for alcohol related incidents.

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Fax (219) 259-5643 (219) 291-2482

Need a Will, Legal Power of Attorney, ect. Our favorite family attorney, Mary Bottum recently moved to Iowa, but during a visit here, she said she could still help and could be contacted via phone and and would respond by sending a questionnaire. If you are interested in contacting her, call an Open Arms Staff member for her phone number.



ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertising in Open Arms runs on a calendar year basis and our advertisers will be receiving renewal notices soon. Since our rates are so low (\$10 per year, or more if you can afford it, for a business-card size ad) we don't pro-rate the fee on a less than 6 month basis. If you submit your ad between January and June, the full year rate will apply; between July and December the rate will be half the yearly rate.



*New! Opening in June...a new women's guesthouse!
Call about special pre-opening rates in May.
Book now for Holland/Michigan Tulip Festival, May 4th-14th.*

Saugatuck on the river...

DEERPATH LODGE

... an enchanting retreat

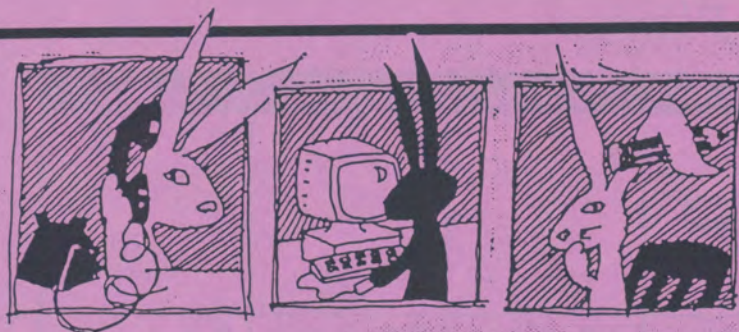


Deerpath Lodge sits atop a dune overlooking the Kalamazoo River. Surrounding evergreens, oaks, and an extensive wildflower garden provide a rustic charm. The river and 45 acres seclude our private retreat from public access. Saugatuck, the infamous art colony, and mecca of innovative shops and restaurants is just five minutes by car, longer by boat. We offer three spacious guest rooms, each with private bath; one with kitchenette. A wholesome breakfast is provided.

Guest Rooms For Women

For Reservations & Information,
P.O. Box 849 Saugatuck, Michigan 49453
1-616-857-DEER

ADVERTISERS



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Director



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(219) 232-4191
1-800-92-KOALA
FAX (219) 232-4561



LU ELLEN BROWN
WIRE WRAPPED JEWELRY

(616) 684-6365

DRIFT-WOODS COTTAGES



Two-bedroom and one-bedroom cottages available on Lake Michigan, ten minutes south of Saugatuck, Michigan. The cottages are open year around, are fully furnished and have well-equipped kitchens. Linens and towels are provided for bedroom and bath. The living rooms have gas log fireplaces. Gas grills are provided for outdoor barbeques. The beach is accessible via stairs. Hiking trails, sand dunes, cross-country skiing shops, galleries, restaurants, and antique shopping are nearby.

Call Susan for weekend, mid-week or weekly visits at (616) 857-2586

October 1995

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
1	2	3 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	4 NOW Meeting St. Joe Library 7:00 p.m.	5	6	7																																																																																				
8	9	10 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	11	12	13 Video Night 7:00 p.m.	14																																																																																				
15 Open Arms Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	16	17 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	18 Reservations due for Third Fri. Out	19	20 Third Friday Out 7:00 p.m.	21 Dance New place in Niles 7 - 12:00																																																																																				
22 PFLAG Meeting 2:00-4:00 p.m.	23	24 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	25	26	27	28																																																																																				
29	30	31 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	September <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table> November <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
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MISSION STATEMENT

Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community.

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the November *Open Arms* is October 10th. Submissions can be mailed to Open Arms, P. O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or given to Sheree or Kaye. Submissions received after October 10th may not be published in the November newsletter.

Newsletter meeting: Sunday, October 15th, 1995, at 6:30p.m. Call 271-0338 for directions.